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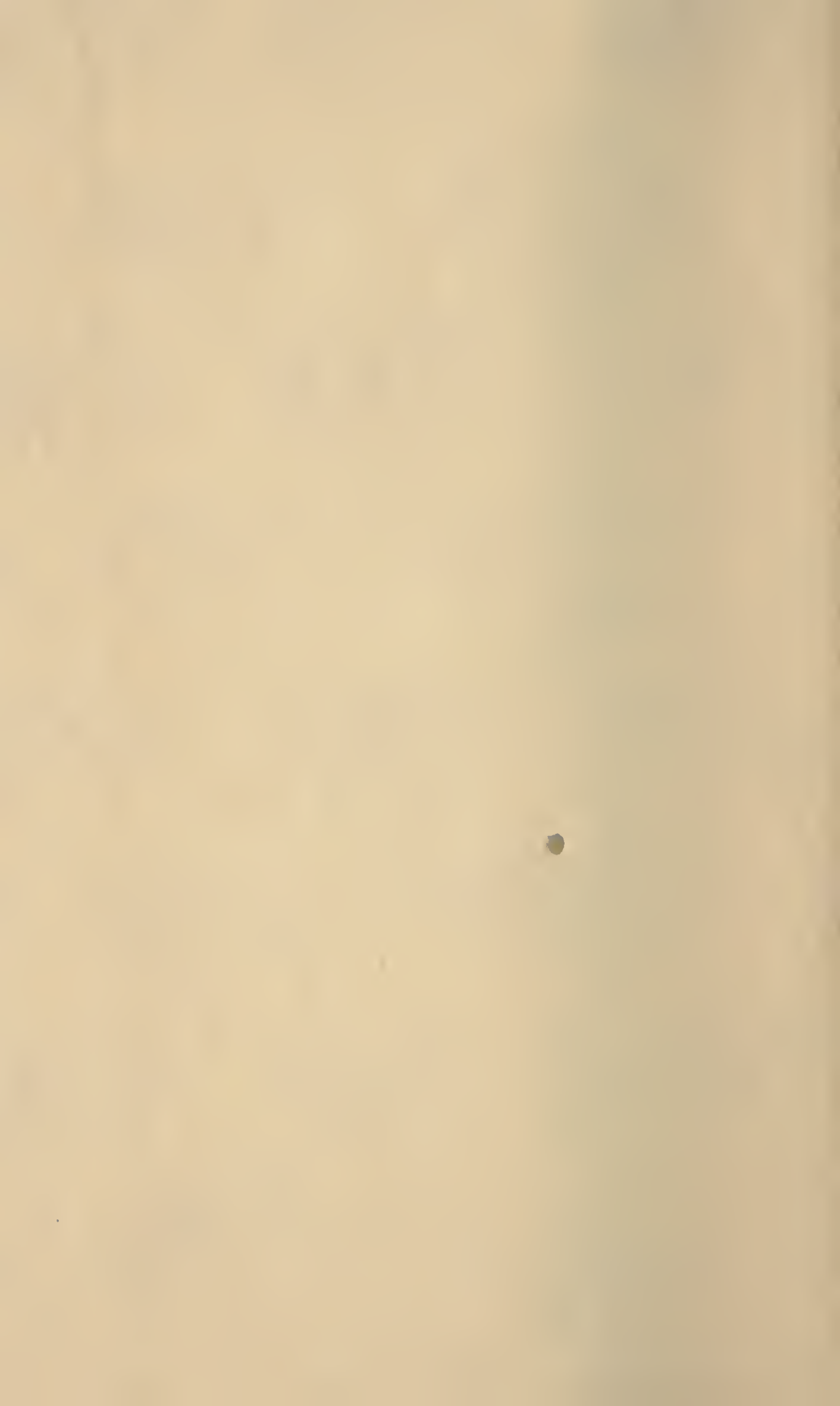


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AMERICA'S LIGHT

BY

THEODORE C. ATCHISON ✓

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A contribution in the effort to reawaken
in America consciousness of duty toward
an uncompleted task.

AMERICA'S LIGHT

In fateful hour America stood
Irresolute, enthrall'd, in awe;
While Belgium with her noblest blood
Upheld the majesty of law;
And bravely dared to meet the blow,
The fire and sword of Teuton foe.

And, then, when France upon her shield
Bore the invader's savage thrust;
Each fallen town, each blood soaked field,
An added token of Prussian lust,
And blood ran red from Liège to Marne
We did not speak, we did not warn.

A thousand years of rights and laws,
Proud heritage the world had won
Through blood and tears in freedom's cause,
Were challeng'd by the boastful Hun,
And yet we dallied and forbore,
Forgot the faith our fathers swore.

Though great our strength we stood aside
And throve in schemes of mart and trade;
Far distant from the crimson tide
We counted gains the war had made,
And long beheld the Teuton horde
Impale the world upon a sword.

War's dreadful scourge in toll of death
Had millions claim'd and still swept on,
And centuries of garner'd wealth
Into red holocaust had gone
Ere America's strength; our flag unfurl'd,
Gave courage to a stricken world.

We heard voices of children call,
Their sires' appeals of wild despair,
And the cries of the dead; of all
Who strove in crimson'd clutch of war.
The world at arms, red with its blood,
Awoke the ties of brotherhood.

O'er fields where Hun and Vandal horde
Spread the terror of dread renown,
And mad Attila, with dripping sword,
Sought to gain the Visigoth crown,
The world beheld democracy's brave
Sweep on to victory or the grave.

And God who notes the sparrow's fall,
And tempers winter winds that blow,
Will ever hear the prayerful call,
The accents of a people's woe.
Portals of His grace open wide
To chasten'd heart and humbl'd pride.

AMERICA'S LIGHT

* * * * *

Pray walk these fields with solemn tread,
View all the scene with tearful eye;
Here sleep our great, heroic dead,
Who fighting fell where now they lie;
Freedom's sacrifice to war's lust,
Number'd with earth's eternal dust.

III

AMERICA'S LIGHT

Nation ne'er essay'd nobler pow'rs
Than to America peace now brought;
Leadership of the world was ours,
To lead from ruin the war had wrought,
And seal the pledge we made our slain
They should not suffer and die in vain.

But a stubborn few in power's place,
Unable to lead, would not be led;
Though valiant in a mouthy race
Loquacious grew on what they fed,
And when our hopes in peril hung
Abandon'd all in clash of tongue.

To hate and greed, foul brood of war,
These bold obstructors made appeal;
Disdain'd the kin that all men are
And scorn'd the love that brothers feel;
Forgot our dead and all our maim'd,
Forswore the cause we had acclaim'd.

Shall partisans risk in foolish pride,
Like reckless gamblers risk in play,
The things for which our sons have died?
Shall artful marplots bar the way
Though all the world in anguish cries?
The spirit of the people dies?

AMERICA'S LIGHT

With money lords must statesmen share
Their views of state which they may hold?
A people's woe; their dark despair,
Be measur'd by the clink of gold?
All their hopes for their stricken lands
Lie in the hollow of bankers' hands?

AMERICA'S LIGHT

Does impious fate, or vice, or wrong,
Ill warp'd mind, or timorous heart,
Beguile our nation, strongest of the strong,
That now we play a weakling's part?
Though the world in anguish calls our name?
Prays us quench its consuming flame?

They who fell when Columbia led
For freedom's cause in her natal hour,
And they who fell, glorious dead,
In strife that seal'd our nation's pow'r;—
They died in vain shall America's Light
Fail to lead through the world's dark night.

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of President of the United States since the year 1789. The names are given in the order in which they were elected, and the year of their election is given in parentheses. The names are given in the order in which they were elected, and the year of their election is given in parentheses.





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